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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0811  
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE  
RUEHAS/AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE 0545  
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 1859  
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE 0415  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0912

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001067

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR IO/UNP JOSEPH FITZGERALD AND NEA/MAG RANDALL  
KAAILAU

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/20/2018

TAGS: UNSC PREL PGOV PBTS MO WI IT

SUBJECT: ITALY SUPPORTS FIFTH ROUND OF WESTERN SAHARA  
TALKS, DEMURS ON VAN WALSUM

REF: STATE 88765

Classified By: A/Pol M/C Gabriel Escobar for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA Acting UN Office Director Leonardo Bencini August 19, urging Italy to support a fifth round of Western Sahara talks led by UN Secretary General Envoy Peter Van Walsum. Bencini said Italy continued support a UN role in resolving the Western Sahara dispute, and would back a fifth round of talks. He said Italy had taken note of Van Walsum's past comments that "an independent Western Sahara is not an attainable goal," and pointed out that Italy's strove for "more balance" in its position. He said Italy would not/not demarche the UN Secretariat in support of retaining Van Walsum, a matter that Italy believes should be left to the UNSYG.

CRAWFORD